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Alleged Homosexual Ring Found In a Raid on Apartment in Dallas

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DALLAS, Aug. 15 — The police here said today that they had uncovered a nationwide homosexual procurement ring in a raid on an apartment on the city's near north side.

Last night's raid turned up catalogue files containing the names and addresses of 50,000 to 100,000 people around the country, the police said.

Also seized were booklets containing the pictures and names of teen-aged and young adult males available through the ring for homosexual activities, they said.

Capt. Bennie M. Newman, commander of the Police Youth Division, said today there was no immediate evidence to link the operation in Dallas with the discovery of the homosexual-torture murder ring in Houston and 27 bodies of young boys and men.

"At this point I don't think it has anything to do with what happened in Houston," Captain Newman said.

The alleged leader of the ring, John Paul Norman, 45 years old, was freed today on $7,000 bond after the police filed charges ofw violation of state narcotics laws, stemming from the seizure of maraijuana in the apartment.

Charges of conspiracy to commit a felony-sodomy and contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile were to be filed tomorrow. Five others arrested were released without charges.

It was learned that Norman has an arrest record in Houston for sexual assaults in 1954 and 1956, but disposition of the cases was not immediately known.

He also has convictions in California in 1963 for such assaults and in 1971 for sending obscene literature through the mail, a Federal charge. He was also committed to a state hospital by the California Department of Mental Hygiene as a sex offender.

The authorities said that the ring, operating under the name of the Odyssey Foundation with a San Diego, Calif., post office box, became known last Friday when a 24-year-old member of the organization became panicky that the police were about to strike.

However, the police said they had been unaware of the operation until the man disclosed it.

Members of the Criminal Investigation Division's Special Investigations Unit and Youth Division, led by Lieut. Harold Hancock of the Intelligence Division, secured search warrants late yesterday afternoon.

The detectives raided the second-floor apartment at 3716 Cole Avenue and seized files, pornographic literature, a camera, photo-engraving equipment, stationery, an electric typewriter and hundreds of booklets with names and addresses. The confiscated material filled a pickup truck.

The literature and stationery bore the name "Epic International" and gave the address, apartment number and a telephone number.

The ring, allegedly procured teen-aged boys and young men, publishing their names, pictures, physical description, age and interests in the booklet.

Some of the youths were procured at bus stations, while others, apparently known homosexuals, were solicited by letter, according to Captain Newman.

Membership in the operation was allegedly sold at $15 a year, with a $3 fee for the booklets.

According to the police, the teen-agers and young men were called "fellows" while the homosexuals for whom they were procured were referred to as "sponsors."

The sponsors were invited to fill out forms listing how long they wanted to have a "fellow" in their homes, the police said. The "fellows" criss-crossed the country, staying with "sponsors" who then paid their air fare to the next city.

Captain Newman said the procured young men received expenses and some pocket money and usually stayed from one to three days before flying to another city.

The police here said the ring had apparently begun operation in May.

Assistant Police Chief Donald Steele reported that four pictures of young boys found in the apartment had the word 'kill" written on them. However, the police said they were told the word referred to their removal from the procurement ring's literature because they were uncooperative and did not mean they had been ordered killed.

Chief Steele said United States postal inspectors and the Internal Revenue Service had entered the investigation of the ring, and he added:

"We're just scratching the surface. We don't know where it will lead. I've never seen anything like it.

Reaction in New York

James Murphy, director of program development for Odyssey House, a New York-based drug rehabilitation program, said he was "shocked" at the use of the name.

"This is the first time we've been aware of anybody using our name in any alleged criminal activity," he said.

"We have absolutely no connection with that group," Mr. Murphy said.

Ronald Gold, an official of the Gay Activists Alliance in New York, said of the police report, "I haven't the faintest idea of whether the police outlines are true or not. I never heard of the group. The whole idea that because one person is older than another he is automatically an exploiter is ludicrous.